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For the adequate study of these matters, not only will the mere technique of the collection and analysis of statistic require to be much advanced, but the popular opinion as to the value of the effort will also have to progress. Given, however, an intelligent public opinion, as to the utility of statistical inquiries, there would be some ground for hope that the great questions, the analysis of which would throw light upon human destiny, could be properly attacked. It is for educational departments, worthy of the name, to create such opinion by the mechanism of their systems, in order that each human being should be sufficiently interested to cordially co-operate, by accurately furnishing the necessary data in the taking of a census of population or wealth. Census-taking is a costly operation, but it is the foundation of all branches of statistic that have a direct human interest. Its value and the facility of using it would be immensely increased if it were meticulously accurate. The importance of technique and of precision, matters apparently of little moment, can be rightly estimated only when the ultimate aim of all statistical inquiry is realised to be 'the study of man's destiny' as the denizen of a world of limitations.

HORACE SECRIST.

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#### NEW BOOKS

- HOFFMAN, F. L. *Army anthropometry and medical rejection statistics.* (Newark, N. J.: Prudential Ins. Co. 1919. Pp. 114.)
- MACDONALD, A. *Anthropometry of soldiers.* Reprinted from the *Medical Record*, Dec. 14, 1918. (New York: William Wood & Co. 1918. Pp. 17.)
- TRIVETT, J. B. *The official year book of New South Wales, 1917.* (Sydney: Bureau of Statistics. 1918. Pp. 843. 2s. 6d.)
- Census of war commodities. Statistics of leather.* (Washington: Bureau of the Census. 1918. Pp. 13.)
- Eidgenössisches statistisches Bureau. Statistisches Jahrbuch der Schweiz, 1917.* (Bern. 1918. Pp. 371.)
- Statistical year book of Quebec, 1918.* Fifth year. (Quebec: Bureau of Statistics. 1918. Pp. xiii, 565.)